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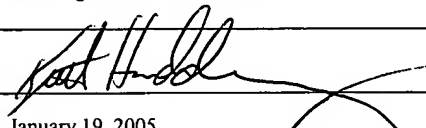
Application Number	10/634,707
Filing Date	August 5, 2003
First Named Inventor	Thomas E. NAHILL
Group Art Unit	1732
Examiner Name	Michael COLAINI
Attorney Docket Number	29953-209466 Formerly 18025 USA

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Form SB/08A listing 11 References; International Search Report; Copies of 9 Foreign References
<div>Remarks</div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Venable P.O. Box 34385 Washington, D.C. 20043-9998	 26694 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Signature	 Keith Haddaway (Reg. No. 46, 180)	
Date	January 19, 2005	

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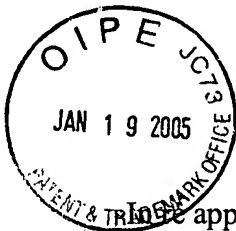
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DC2/613421



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Priority application of:

Thomas E. NAHILL et al.

Art Unit: 1732

Confirmation No.: 7388

Examiner: Michael COLAIANI

Appl. No: 10/634,707

Filed: August 5, 2003

Atty. Docket No: 29953-209466

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Attention: PCT DO/EO/US

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 within the time specified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

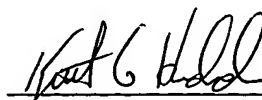
Attached are copies of the foreign patent documents cited in the enclosed International Search Report dated November 24, 2004 in connection with the priority application and above international application, respectively. In accordance with patent office policy, copies of U.S. patents are not included.

A Form PTO-1449 listing all of the documents is attached.

As all requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, and all official guidelines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the cited publications and make them of record.

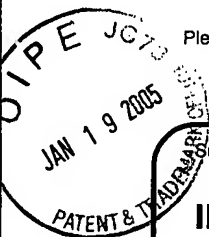
Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 19, 2005



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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/634,707
Filing Date	August 5, 2003
First Named Inventor	Thomas E. NAHILL et al.
Group Art Unit	1732
Examiner Name	Michael COLAIANNI
Attorney Docket Number	29953-209466

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	6,349,838	B1	Kawaguchi Kiyoshi et al.	02-26-2002	
	A2	2002/088767	A1	Kawaguchi Kiyoshi et al.	07-11-2002	
	A3					
	A4					
	A5					
	A6					
	A7					
	A8					
	A9					
	A10					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ₈
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	B1	EP	0727303	A	Inventa AG	08-21-1996		
	B2	DE	19503053	A	Zimmer AG	08-08-1996		
	B3	EP	1208957	A	Toyo Seikan Kaisha Ltd.	05-29-2002		
	B5	EP	1193054	A	Toyo Seikan Kaisha Ltd.	04-03-2002		
	B6	WO	03/047831	A	Zoppas Matteo	06-12-2003		
	B7	GB	1166893	A	Gunma Kagaku K.K.	10-15-1969		
	B8	EP	0933187	A	Elizabeth and Sandor Valyi FOU	08-04-1999		
	B9	WO	98/41375	A	Eastman Chem Co.	09-24-1998		
	B10							

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	C1	Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 2003, No. 09, 3 September 2003 and JP 2003 136583 A (Toyo Seikan Kaisha Ltd.), May 14, 2003 Abstract; Figure 3	
	C2		
	C3		

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Signature

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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